

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An electronic device, comprising:
 - a processor for executing an operating system program and a media content presentation program;
 - a media content pickup device operatively connected to said processor, said media content pickup device arranged to capture ~~captures~~ media content input, and said media content pickup device arranged to automatically focus ~~focuses the media content input~~ on a user-specified region of interest without moving the media content pickup device; and
 - a media output path to receive and to carry ~~carries~~ the focused media content.
2. (currently amended) An electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the user-specified region of interest ~~interested~~ is specified by a user through interaction with a graphical user interface.
3. (currently amended) An electronic device as recited in claim 2, wherein the graphical user interface is provided by ~~a~~ the media content presentation program that is executed by said processor.
4. (currently amended) An electronic device as recited in claim 2, wherein said media output path carries the focused media content input to be provided to a media output device, the media output device being part of said electronic device or separate from said electronic device.
5. (original) An electronic device as recited in claim 4,
 - wherein said media output device is a monitor,
 - wherein the graphical user interface is displayed on said monitor, and
 - wherein the graphical user interface includes at least a media content display window.

6. (currently amended) An electronic device as recited in claim 5, wherein the user-specified region of **interest interested** is specified by the user with reference to the media content display window.
7. (original) An electronic device as recited in claim 4, wherein said media output device is a monitor.
8. (original) An electronic device as recited in claim 4, wherein said media output device is at least one speaker.
9. (original) An electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the media content input is at least one of audio content or video content.
10. (original) An electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein said media content pickup device is at least one of a camera and a plurality of microphones.
11. (original) An electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein said electronic device is one of a mobile telephone, a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, and a handheld computer.

12. (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:
a processor for executing a video application program;
a camera operatively connected to said processor, said camera arranged to capture
captures video input in accordance with its field of view, and said camera arranged to
automatically focus ~~focuses the video input~~ on a determined region of the field of view
without moving the camera, the determined region being determined in accordance with a user
input; and
a data output means operatively connected to said processor, said data output means
operates to provide the focused video input for display.

13. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein said processor receives
a user input that indicates the determined region of the field of view.

14. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user input is with
respect to a window displayed on said display.

15. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the user input is a user
selection of a region of the window.

16. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein said computer further
comprises:

at least one microphone for sound pickup.

17. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 16, wherein the video application
program is an audio-video application, and wherein said processor receives the sound pickup
from said at least one microphone and supplies audio output to a speaker.

18. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 17, wherein the speaker is coupled
to and associated with said computer.

19. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein said computer further comprises:

a plurality of microphones for sound pickup, said microphones having a known positional relationship to one another,

wherein said microphones are integral with said camera.

20. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 19, wherein said processor receives audio input from each of said microphones and processes the audio input to emphasize audio sound from the determined region that has been determined in accordance with the user input.

21. (currently amended) A method for altering a focus location for a camera coupled to a computing apparatus, said method comprising:
- receiving video input from the camera;
- displaying the video input in a video viewing window of a monitor;**
- receiving an identification of a focus region **that has an specified by a user by selecting an area of the video viewing window;** and
- causing the camera to focus on the focus region **without moving the camera.**
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (original) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the user moves a curser image over the video viewing window using a pointing device to an area of interest, and then selects the focus region by clicking on the area of interest.
25. (original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the user performs a button press to select the focus region.
26. (original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein the button press is with respect to a pointing device.
27. (original) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the pointing device is a mouse, trackball or a trackpad.
28. (original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the user moves a position reference image over the video viewing window using a pointing device to an area of interest, and then selects the focus region by clicking on the area of interest.

29. (original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the focus region is an area of interest specified by the user.
30. (original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein said receiving of the audio input is supplied from a first computing apparatus to a second computing apparatus, and said displaying of the video input and said receiving of the focus region are performed on the second computing apparatus.
31. (original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the computing apparatus is one of a mobile telephone, a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, and a handheld computer.

32. (currently amended) A method for using a computing apparatus to process audio input provided by a plurality of microphones, said method comprising:

receiving audio input from the plurality of microphones;

receiving an indication of a region of interest from a user with respect to a graphical user interface window being displayed on a monitor available to the user; and

processing the audio input to target focus the audio input towards the region of interest.

33. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein said method further comprises:
outputting the processed audio input to at least one speaker.

34. (original) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein said method further comprises:
repeating the foregoing operations after said outputting has output the processed audio input to the at least one speaker.

35. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein said processing captures audio from the region of interest while attempting to reject audio from other regions.

36. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein said processing utilizes beam forming and beam steering operations.

37. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein a camera couples to the computer, and
wherein the camera has a housing and the microphones are internal to the housing of the camera.

38. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the user performs a button press to select the region of interest.

39. (original) A method as recited in claim 38, wherein the button press is with respect to a pointing device.

40. (original) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the pointing device is a mouse, trackball or a trackpad.

41. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the user moves a position reference image over the graphical user interface window using a pointing device to an area of interest, and then selects the region of interest by clicking on the area of interest.

42. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein said receiving of the audio input is supplied from a first computing apparatus to a second computing apparatus, and said displaying of the graphical user interface window and said receiving of the indication of the region of interest are performed on the second computing apparatus.

43. (original) A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the computing apparatus is one of a mobile telephone, a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, and a handheld computer.

44. (currently amended) A video conferencing system operable over a network, said video conferencing system comprising:

a first computer system including at least a first processor for executing a first operating system program and a first video application program, a first camera to capture first video input, and a first monitor; and

a second computer system operatively connectable to said first computer system via the network, said second computer system including at least a second processor for executing a second operating system program and a second video application program, a second camera to capture video input, and a second monitor;

wherein when said first computer system and said second computer system are involved in a video conference, said first monitor displays the second video input provided by said second camera via the network, and said second monitor displays the first video input provided by said first camera via the network, and

wherein when a first user interacts with a window including the second video input a first graphical user interface presented on said first monitor to select a region of interest with respect to the second video input, said second camera then automatically focuses itself so that the second video input is focused on the region of interest without moving said second camera.

45. (Canceled)

46. (original) A video conferencing system as recited in claim 45, wherein the first user interfaces with the first graphical user interface by moving a graphical indicator over the window to identify the region of interest and then indicating its selection.

47. (original) A video conferencing system as recited in claim 44,

wherein said first computer system further includes at least a first plurality of microphones and a first speaker,

wherein said second computer system further includes at least a second plurality of microphones and a second speaker,

wherein second audio input obtained by said second plurality of microphones is provided to said first computer system via the network and then output to said first speaker,

wherein first audio input obtained by said first plurality of microphones is provided to said second computer system via the network and then output to said second speaker, and

wherein said second multimedia computer system performs processing on the second audio input based on the region of interest selected by the first user, whereby the second audio input is processed so as to emphasize audio sound from the region of interest.

48. (original) A video conferencing system as recited in claim 44,

wherein said first plurality of microphones are internal to a housing of said first camera, and

wherein said second plurality of microphones are internal to a housing of said second camera.

49. (currently amended) A computer readable medium including at least computer program code for directing media content input, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for receiving media content input from a media content capturing device;

computer program code for receiving a user-specified region of interest for the media content input;

computer program code for processing a media content input into a media content display window ~~processed media content~~ based on a user-specified region of interest without moving said media content capturing device, wherein the user-specified region of interest is specified by the user by selecting a region within the media content display window; and

computer program code for providing the media content display window ~~processed media content~~ to a graphical user interface of a monitor device.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Canceled)

53. (original) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 49, wherein the media content input is at least one of audio content or video content.

54. (original) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 49, wherein said media content pickup device is at least one of a camera and a plurality of microphones.

55. (original) A computer readable medium as recited in claim 49, wherein the media output device is a monitor and/or at least one speaker.